# SNOW '77 SPECIAL

NIAGARA COLLEGE
of Applied Arts and Technology
RESOURCE CENTRE

Niagara News

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# Hundreds help the stranded

Stranded students in the cafeteria [above] and the lounges[below] don't seem enthralled with the idea of spending the weekend at school. (Photo by Middlemiss)

By ANGUS MIDDLEMISS

All sorts of people came to the rescue of about 700 students, faculty and staff snowbound at Niagara the weekend of Jan. 28 to 30. It seemed that the community as a whole wanted to help the community college, as organizations and individuals alike combined to feed, shelter and rescue the entombed castaways.

Constant announcements warned people not to leave the buildings alone, and not to seek shelter in cars. Screaming winds blew against windows until they neared the breaking point. The tempest forced swirling snow through cracks in doorways until drifts built up on the floors.

More than 2,000 meals were served to the frozen marooned who battled wind, snow and wind-chill factors of minus 60 degrees Celsius to get to the cafeteria. While eating, students were reminded of the blizzard by sounds of slamming doors and shovels grating on the cafeteria floor as snow was removed.

By Saturday night hundreds of people were taken out in convoys, equipped with CBs, during a lull in the storm. By Sunday morning, only about 125 were left at the college.

Bodies filled the lounges, lecture theatres, offices and classrooms of what was becoming known as "Hotel Niagara." The Hamilton Room reverberated with snores, people snuggled in stretchers, and many adopted fetal positions on the carpeted cement in the lounges and the resource centre. Carcasses were found everywhere—even in the morgue (library of the journalism area).

The Red Cross sent soup, crackers, bread and cheese; McDonald's Restaurant donated about 400 hamburgers; R. Young insurance, the college insurance company, bought $1,000 worth of food from National Grocers who also delivered it; and offers to donate food, bedding, soup, cakes and rooms for the stranded were received from concerned college neighbors.

Truck drivers, CBers and snowmobilers picked up and delivered the donations. Some snowmobilers and between 400 and 500 CBers helped convoy students to their homes throughout the Niagara region.

Snowmobilers were used to bring in vital medication, like insulin.

A.S. Manera, college president, said that although a major concern was to get students home safely, the main worry was to get medicines into the college. Niagara Regional Police came to the college at 2 a.m. Saturday with some badly-needed medicine. He said Eleanor Snider of the medical records program, did a lot.

"I don't know what we would have done without Eleanor Snider—she's been just terrific."

College administration spent hours on end trying to make the students and others who were stranded here as comfortable as possible. Ontario Paper Company representatives from St. Catharines who were taking a special course that week, joined the stranded. Travelers hearing that hundreds of students couldn't leave Niagara sheltered here, too.

From the time he awoke at 6:45 a.m. Friday, Mr. Manera had had only 2½ hours sleep by Sunday morning. Over the same period, Adam Macsai, Student Administrative Council (SAC) president, went without sleep for 49 hours.

Besides trying to get the students more comfortable, the administration, Adam and Guido Rapone, SAC executive vice-president, tried to get some arrangements made to get the students to their homes.

Just before 6 a.m. Sunday, the president and his staff were in their Lundy building command centre, making final plans for evacuation.

See HUNDREDS pg. 4

## BULLETIN

**As this edition was being pasted up, the college was closed for the second time in a week. Journalism students producing the Niagara News continued to complete Snow '77 Special.**

**Forecaster says**

# Another big blow possible Feb. 10

Niagara could be in for more stormy weather by the weekend, according to the supervising forecaster at Toronto International Airport.

A Feb. 1 Globe and Mail article said a storm forming over the Gulf of Mexico and conditions aloft seem to be setting the stage for a repeat of the Jan. 10 storm. A more severe storm hit the peninsula Jan. 28.

That storm headed north from the gulf because of a temporary shift in a "long wave trough" that has dominated the weather in eastern North America for nearly a year. High winds and heavy snows were accompanied by thunder and lightning in the Jan. 10 storm. The college closed that day.

When the trough is in its normal position it brings successive Arctic cold fronts plunging south, occasionally as far as Florida.

The same trough has prevented storms spawned in the Gulf of Mexico from heading north. Instead, they are deflected into the Atlantic and head northward along the east coast.

Before the Jan. 10 storm there was a slight westward shift of the trough, or "retrogression"in the jargon of weathermen, so the storm could slip northward west of the Appalachians.

The same thing seems to be happening again, and the forecaster said conditions may soon be ripe for the new storm to follow the same track toward the Great Lakes.

However, any change in the trough's position is likely to be shortlived. The U.S. weather service is calling for the basic weather pattern over North America to remain unchanged for the next few weeks.

**TROUGH PERSISTED**

Ever since the trough settled in the upper atmosphere last spring, it has persisted in bringing eastern North America cold but relatively dry weather.

It shifted for a while last April and briefly in June but what meteorologists hoped would be a permanent shift soon became only a temporary movement.

The trough has been firmly in place since mid-October and as a result the last three months of 1976 were the coldest since the airport weather office was established in the 1930s. The average daily temperature has been 5 degrees (C) below normal.

Snowfall during January was twice the normal amount at 70 millimetres but rainfall was well below the normal 25mm. at 0.3 mm.

# Editorials

## At Hotel Niagara...

Never before has Niagara College been closed to the extent that people had to convert it into a hotel. And, as we all know, the Jan. 28 to 30 weekend went into our history books.

We were really stuck for a plan of action during the emergency, but the community came through with things we residents couldn't get. They brought us food, drugs and risked life and limb to get us out.

I'm sure the college and the community were prepared to handle a disaster such as an explosion because three years ago a mock explosion took place. However, no one could have ever guessed that a storm of the magnitude which hit the Niagara Region would have happened. So no real plans had been made. But I bet the administration will devise a plan now.

Everyone handled themselves quite well. Instead of panicking people pitched pennies; instead of becoming miserable, individuals talked and made friends with people they never knew; and rather than trying to leave the jobs of doing dishes or carrying food from Hennepin to someone else, many people volunteered their help.

**Congratulations to all for doing a good job and for helping each other. And a special thanks for all those from outside the college for all their concern.**

**—Angus Middlemiss**

## 2 different 'disasters'

Three years ago Niagara experienced a "disaster." Those of us who were here remember it as a day of fear, panic, rumor, danger and, finally, disillusionment.

The "disaster," an explosion, was an exercise designed to test the reactions and capabilities of the area in the event of a real calamity.

Memories of the day are bitter ones: comforting a hysterical friend; getting drenched running out to the parking lot to offer transportation for the injured; total frustration as another girl and I tried to clear the area outside the "scene of the disaster" of voyeurs, and found ourselves blocked at every turn.

Organizers of the disorder did such an ineffective job that no one knew where to go or what to do.

The snowstorm of two weeks ago proves the point. Seven hundred students and staff were kept warm, fed, bedded and healthy by the efficient and dedicated efforts of those who probably responded the same way three years ago. There was no one organizing this disaster; as a result, confusion was soon dispelled and order reigned.

There was another difference. Those who reacted positively and effectively this time have our genuine gratitude, respect and affection. They did not feel used and cheated when the crisis ended; they felt, and were, needed and worthy.

**Lynne Van Tilborg**

*"Isn't this Niagara College?"*

With apologies to Jasper and Simpkins.

## To Manera

# *Storm size a surprise*

By DENNY BUNYAN

The college was not closed earlier on the day of the Jan. 28 blizzard because A. S. Manera, college president, did not expect the storm to hit "with such intensity."

Many students stranded at the college for two nights are asking why the announcement to close the college was not made before it was too late to travel home that Friday.

The announcement was made shortly before noon, Mr. Manera said. He did not close the school before then because he did not anticipate a storm of such severity.

"Obviously I knew the storm was coming but did not expect its impact would be as severe as it was," Mr. Manera said. "In retrospect the thing to do would be not to open the school at all."

**NOT PREPARED**

Mr. Manera said he had expected the college to close early on Friday, but was not prepared for the snow storm which turned into a raging blizzard in less than an hour. Mr. Manera stressed the fact that he did not expect the storm "to hit with such intensity."

Whether or not the unscheduled holiday will affect the winter break next weekend is not known as yet, Mr. Manera said.

A. S. MANERA
College President

"We've lost a lot of class time and we'll have to look at ways of making it up."

Mr. Manera, who finally left the campus Sunday morning, said he only got about two hours sleep over the whole weekend.

**INTER-DEPENDENCE**

He felt the weekend stayover gave everybody "a feeling of inter-dependence that is quite unique." Students and staff responded very well to the situation they found themselves in, Mr. Manera said.

"The number of students and staff who pitched in and helped was tremendous," he said. "They didn't have to be asked; they saw something had to be done and did it."

He commended area residents and snowmobilers for their help during the storm. Some of the people forced to stay at the college were in need of medical supplies. Without the snowmobilers who brought in the supplies, "a number of people might have been very sick," Mr. Manera said.

Mr. Manera said figures were not yet available but he would not want to "hazard a guess" at the overall cost of the weekend.

He said there was absolutely no truth to a widely-circulated rumor that the college stayed open to receive a grant from the Ontario government by holding classes until noon. There is such a grant but it does not apply to community colleges.

With another storm expected on or about Feb. 10, Mr. Manera was asked if there was any action that could be taken to avoid a similar situation.

"There is no foolproof method of avoiding a recurrence," Mr. Manera said.

## Cafeteria staff on the go

By ANNITA NEWELL

Cafeteria staff members worked around the clock the weekend following the Jan. 28 blizzard to feed about 700 stranded people.

Fred Bomers, cafeteria manager, said five regular staff members—John Hubeny, chef, Betsy Timmers, Linda Bomers, Mavis Tunstall and Iris Duckett—who were also stranded at the college cooked meals, made sandwiches and hamburgers and served about 700 students and staff at meal times.

On Friday, Mr. Bomers' daughter, Linda, was in charge of organizing dinner in the absence of her father. Linda said she and the staff had never fed that many people at one time. Customers usually come in a few at a time making preparations easier.

Mr. Bomers received a call in St. Catharines Saturday morning asking for more supplies. He and his other daughter, Brenda, along with Linda's fiance, started out from St. Catharines at 10:30 a.m. They reached the college about 1 p.m. with their supply of fish, ham and cookies.

Meanwhile donations of food from businesses and individuals began arriving by snowmobile and truck. McDonald's sent about 400 hamburgers, Pizza Delight donated 30 pizzas, the Red Cross sent cans of soup. R. C. Young, an insurance company in Niagara Falls, donated !1,000 worth of food.

Mrs. Lazoren, who lives near the college, sent two pots of homemade turkey soup. And many other private individuals sent contributions of all kinds.

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## Snow casualties

**Left, A. S. Manera, college president, tries to get 40 winks early Sunday morning — he didn't. From the time he woke up Friday until he left the college Sunday morning, he had only 2½ hours of sleep.**

**Above, Ontario Paper supervisory management students trapped at the college enjoy a hot meal Saturday night.**

(Photos by Middlemiss)

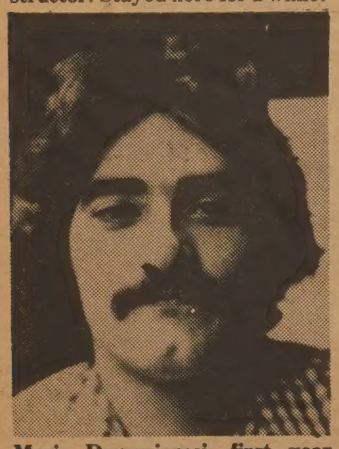
# *Roving Reporter:*

**By KAREN MONCK AND TIM MASON**

**Question: WHAT DID YOU DO DURING THE STORM?**

**Debbie Gregory, first year journalism:** I had a great time.

**Barry Sharpe, economics instructor:** Stayed here for a while.

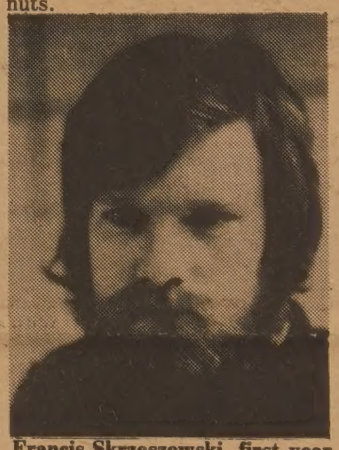


**Mario Domenicucci, first year human relations:** I was stranded inside the school. It was exciting and we had fun.

**Kathy Dillon, general college diploma:** Stayed home and watched TV.

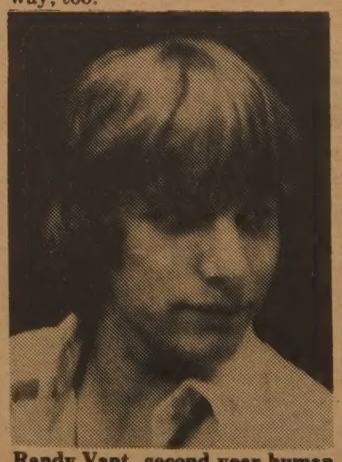
**Jeff Uhrynuk, first year surveying:** I partied and finally got home after the snow was shovelled. The only time I went out was to get beer.

**Amy Fortin, first year human relations:** I stayed here. I went nuts.



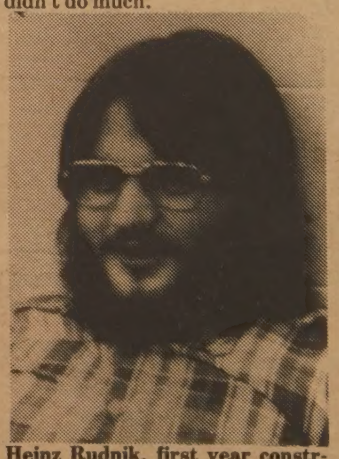
**Francis Skrzeszewski, first year journalism:** Nothing. Stayed home, played the stereo, drank and read. I was sorry to see it stop.

**Mary MacLean, general college diploma:** I helped people by taking them groceries on snowmobile. I shovelled out my driveway, too.



**Randy Vant, second year human relations:** I was really bored so I didn't do too much.

**Jeanine Gauthier, general college diploma:** Stayed home. I didn't do much.



**Heinz Rudnik, first year construction technology:** I had a head-on collision. I hit a semi (a kind of transport truck) about a mile out of Smithville and ended up spending the weekend in Burlington.

**Shari Hakker, second year interior design:** I slept here Friday night and then I walked home Saturday.

**Eugene Lampman, third year business administration:** I went bowling.

**Lynn O'Rourke, general college diploma:** Really, nothing happened.

**Ken Girotti, second year radio and television:** I stayed at the college for most of it. We stayed on the air all night and I had a good time.

**Linda Holman, chemical engineering technology:** We got stuck on highway 58 and we were at one house with about 35 people the first night.

**Rene Collins, first year radio and television:** Kept the radio station going.

**Karen Janisse, second year tourism:** I became a card champ.

**Steve Hay, first year general business:** Stranded here.

**Paul Koncir, first year business administration:** I stayed here.

**Brian Cole, first year radio and televison:** Stayed at home.

**Julie Morris, first year journalism:** Stayed in the house and went nuts. I was in it for five days.

**Marilyn Robb, second year tourism:** Got in a chain accident and was stranded in Fonthill for the weekend.

# *Snow removal proving difficult, budget may go 50% above limit*

Niagara's budget for snow removal may go 50 per cent above the normal amount alloted by the college, Jack Spittle, manager of property and plant said. "It depends on what happens between now and March."

The budget is $7,000 on the main campus, but financial help will have to be obtained to assist snow removal operations.

"I don't know where it's going to come from," Mr. Spittle said. "I'm sure the people in Toronto are well aware of the situation—if not then we'll make them aware."

The college had two snow plows and two front-end loaders to clear snow. There were about 10 men to clear walkways and stairs.

Mr. Spittle was able to acquire a large city plow to clean off the roads near the college. "Our equipment was not heavy enough."

"There must be 10 feet of snow out there in some places," Mr. Spittle said. "There's no room to put it." It is being pushed on the lawn.

At one time, there were about 60 cars in parking lot E, making it difficult to clear out, Mr. Spittle said. "The cars were parked at random but we were lucky and the wind scoured it out pretty well."

Mr. Spittle said he was being conservative when he estimated that there were more than 1,000 of 1,210 parking lots open for use when the college was opened on Feb. 2.

Mr. Spittle said there was never that many cars on campus at any time and car pools by students would have helped but that it was not a necessity.

"Students should show some consideration for the other drivers and apply common sense when it comes to parking," Mr. Spittle said.

He said he was unaware of any accidents that might have occurred at the college during the storm which was "unique in its own way."

"The satellite campuses were also affected but not to the degree of the main campus," Mr. Spittle said. "Wellandvale and Horticulture school in St. Catharines were not as bad as down here (main campus) because they didn't have the snow." The satellite campus in St. Catharines had a $600 budget. Mr. Spittle did not know where it stood financially.

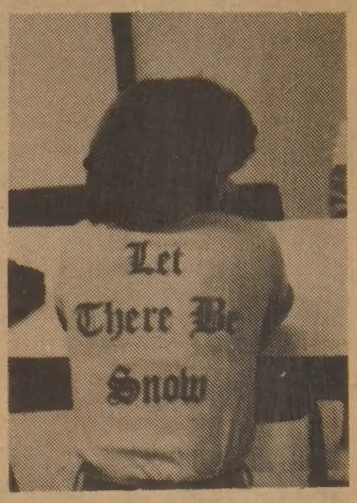
The Niagara Falls campus was of no worry to Mr. Spittle as the property is owned by the city of Niagara Falls and is leased to the college. The city is responsible for snow clearance.

## *Busy, busy!*

**Switchboard operator Helen Wallace handles busy lines at the switchboard in the Voyageur building. Lines were kept busy by stranded students during the snowstorm.**

## *Oh, no!*

**You've got to be kidding! This girl in the T-shirt probably didn't think the same way after she spent a weekend stranded at the college.**




# 1922 Jewett not stopped, proved faithful in storm

**By SYLVIA BAAGO**

Cinderella's Fairy godmother couldn't have provided better transportation by waving her magic wand than the 1922 Jewett which three stranded Niagara College students rode home in Saturday night.

Our godmother materialized in the form of six adventure-seeking young men who bravely ventured out in the aftermath of the storm, in their classic vehicle which they testified was "equipped to go through anything."

Three of us were in the cafeteria, looking bedraggled, lonely and forlorn after hours of trying to negotiate a ride home to Welland. Jennifer and I, journalism students, and Debbie, a school of business student, had been stranded along with 700 other people at the college since Friday afternoon. Although we were being fed and we were warm, the homing instinct was urging us to leave.

**EFFORTS FAILED**

All our efforts to hitch a ride on a snowmobile failed, and it looked as if we would have to spend another night at the college. The frustrating part was the students from St. Catharines were managing to get home but the ones from Welland might as well have been at the North Pole.

Our rescuers, who looked like Eskimos, bundled up to defy the elements, entered in a whirl of snowflakes.

"Never fear, the Jewett can go through anything," they assured us, with so much confidence we began to feel our every wish would come true.

They were a motley looking crew. One called Meats, was dressed like a mototcycle policeman in a white helmet and leather jacket. Another, Jim, had just been released from hospital and had his foot, which had been crushed at work, wrapped up in a plastic bag. He did a very good job of hopping through the snow.

**THE WONDER VEHICLE**

Our heroes escorted us to their wonder vehicle which, they assured us, would practically fly over snowdrifts. We had serious doubts, though, as to the validity of their claim when we first spotted it. There it was, dwarfed beneath the snowdrifts, looking like a Model A. The spoke wheels and narrow tires seemed better suited for sidewalks than for snow.

However, who were we to be so fussy? It was still the best offer we'd had all night, and we weren't about to change our minds now.

Our protests that we all couldn't possibly cram into the cramped interior dissipated when we proved it could be done.

Six of us jammed ourselves into the back seat, being very careful not to sit on Jim's injured leg. The owner of the Jewett, John, drove, while Meats sat beside him. The third rode outside, standing on the running board.

**CHAINS CLANKED**

The Jewett was helped through the snow by chains that clanked loudly through the quiet streets. The engine chugged courageously.

My destination was reached fairly quickly and I said good-bye to the rescuers, who wouldn't accept any renumeration for their good deed.

The Jewett clanked off through the deserted streets and I ran home to the comfort and warmth of my parent's house.

## *Hundreds*

**Continued from pg. 1**

"EMPTY THE BUILDINGS!" The order came through at 6:05 a.m. Sunday—amidst repeated warnings that another severe storm bringing between four and 12 inches of snow would strike early Sunday morning.

The "hotel's" remaining residents—all 125 of them—met in the cafeteria as ordered. They filled in their names, destinations and whether or not they had transportation.

A. S. Aboud, student affairs officer, told those with cars to go out and try to start them so he would know if they needed rides or not.

As students marched through the soup lines getting their ham and egg breakfasts, Mr. Aboud entered the cafeteria.

"Does anybody want a ride to Beamsville," he enquired.

"I do! I do!" a student shouted.

Everybody seemed to be well on their way—well, almost. It was like a car race where half of the drivers couldn't get their cars started. Some motors were humming while others sat chugging. Starters ground out mournfully as car batteries began to die. Those able to get their vehicles started gave others battery boosts.

Soon, everyone was on the way —not to return until Wednesday.

The consensus was that, under the circumstances, "Hotel Niagara" was warm and comfortable, its patrons not very clean, and the rates very reasonable.

# CKNC stays on air 24 hrs. during storm

**By NANCY LIEBAU**

RTV students kept up radio programming around-the-clock during Niagara's white weekend, keeping morale among faculty and students high.

"It was good experience for them," Larry Taylor, program co-ordinator for radio and television, said. The students were doing the same job as commercial radio stations.

"We hauled every record to the control room," he said. There were about 30 students who worked on two or three-hour shifts, 24 hours a day, to relate information about the storm and to keep up spirits of those stranded at the college.

"It was a good experience for them," Mr. Taylor said. Local radio stations supplied information to CKNC, the closed circuit radio system at the college.

**"KINDA FUN"**

Ken Girotti, second-year RTV student, thought the experience was "kinda fun". "Lots of people wanted to get on the air" so there was no shortage of staff.

Ken siad he worked non-stop for four hours on Saturday morning with Bill Malcolm and Ian Murray. "I had been up 30 hours at that point," he said.

Bob Adams, also a second year RTV student, fed a story to Broadcast News, the radio wire service, reporting the situation at Niagara.

"I think the first night was the worst night," said Mr. Taylor. He said everyone got some sleep but as the weekend progrfessed, people were "walking around like zombies." The radio students worked until 6.30 a.m. Sunday shortly before the college was closed.

"Sue Barershill was a morale booster," 'Mr. Taylor siad. Sue, a first-year AV student, kept up the spirits of the staff by bringing coffee and gum to those in the newsroom.

Efforts of the radio crew were appreciated by students and staff spending the weekend, out of necessity, at the college. "We had a good time while we were doing it," said Ken Girotti. "We kept telling everyone to stay here, and not to moves."

# Student weathers storm alone

**By JULIE MORRIS**

Twenty-foot snow drifts, 20-car pile-ups, hundreds of people stranded everywhere and 700 students snowed in at Niagara College. Why do I have to miss all the fun?

When I finally woke late on Friday morning, I rushed to get ready for school. I looked out the window and found I could not see the car 10 feet away, let alone drive the 17 miles to school.

All weekend long the radio announced the disastrous results of the snow storm. I sat in my warm house with five other members of my family, two cats and two dogs and slowly went out of my mind.

I had visions of the Niagara College students having a party all weekend and I had to miss out on it. So what is a little snow; look at all the fun I could have had.

I could not phone out because the phone went dead and, when it finally worked, I found all my friends were snowed in atNiagara.

So, for four days I sat and stared forlornly out the window, wishing I could have been snowed in at Niagara too.

It made me happy to learn that it was not one long big party at the College. Instead some students considered it an ordeal, while others thought it was fun but would not want to repeat the experience.

## *'Help!'*

**Graffiti on frost-covered windows reflected the temperament of students stranded for two days at the college during the peninsula storm.**

**Monotony eventually got to some students who scratched out messages such as, "Help!" and "I want my mommy."**

# Snow melts, soaks floors

Melting snow from pipes and louvres gave the illusion of leaks in the Niagara newsroom and S310 in the Voyaguer building on Feb. 2.

But they were not really leaks, Ed Thompson, building maintenance supervisor, said.

Water on the floors of the newsroom and S310 was from a pipe leak in the mechanical room, Mr. Thompson said.

Humidity pans overflowed but it was a minor thing and was fixed in about a half hour.

Melting snow normally runs to a floor drain and remains unnoticed in the RTV area. On Feb. 2, the excessive amount of snow made the water apparent. This snow blew in from the louvres into the TV makeup room, Mr. Thompson said.

The "leaks" were cleaned up by afternoon, Mr. Thompson said.

## Snow shovellers struggle

Niagara College maintenance workers take shovels in hand to clear parking lot stairway of snow that drifted at the onset of the Jan. 28 storm. Onlooking student steps out of his car, one of the few vehicles that were not immobilized because of the storm.

(Photo by Curran)

# Snow crew hindered by deserted cars

By NELLE OOSTEROM

While hundreds of students were warmly tucked away within the walls of the college, a three-man crew was braving the 60 mph winds outside in an attempt to keep the college roads clear.

Making use of three front-end loaders and three trucks, Harrison's Snow Removal of Welland worked round-the-clock from Friday night until Saturday evening and again from Sunday to the following Thursday.

Actual clearing of the parking lots didn't get under way until Tuesday morning.

"It was impossible to do it at any other time," Joe Harrison, owner of Harrison's Snow Removal, said.

**FIVE CARS BURIED**

Five cars were found completely buried in snowdrifts, he said, and dozens of cars were left abandoned along college roadways, hampering snow removal operations considerably.

"So far, we've had to tow at least five cars out of the way. It takes at least twice as long to clean up when there's cars in the way."

He said abandoned cars were the major hindrance. If students had not attempted to leave the grounds on Friday and Saturday there would have been little problem cleaning up, he said. They should have kept their cars in the parking lots instead of leaving them on the roads, he said.

"If this storm had come after midnight, after all the students had left, we wouldn't have had the problem."

**NO ESTIMATE**

Mr. Harrison said last Wednesday that he could not yet estimate how much it was going to cost the college to clean up the snow.

He said that he and rescuers who formed a truck convoy to take students home were displeased when some students refused to leave Saturday night. While he and his crew worked for hours trying to break roads so that students could leave with the convoy some of them were "too warm and well-fed" to leave.

"At times I think students should be a little more considerate."

# Some were samaritans, others....

By KAREN MONCK

Three Niagara instructors who attempted to get home Jan. 28 during the snowstorm found out there are two types of Samaritans—good and bad.

While Murdoch Keith, social services co-ordinator, was invited into the warmth and security of a house after abandoning his car, Mrs. Alexandra Fic, political science instructor, and Edmund Wilson, general college co-ordinator, found shelter but were "chased out at the height of the storm," Mrs. Fic said.

About four hours after leaving the college, the two instructors were forced to abandon Mr. Wilson's car near Turner's Corners at about 4 p.m. when they were struck in the rear. They had narrowly avoided hitting a pile-up of cars and got stuck in a snowbank. The two set out for the only house visible to them. Although the owner let them in, he told them, and six other refugees from the storm, that they could not stay and sent them back out into the blizzard at about 9.30 p.m.

Meanwhile, Mr. Keith was sharing the hospitality of his rescuers with 29 school children and their bus driver. He had been forced to abandon his car at Quaker and Rice roads and was invited into a nearby house before he could walk very far along Quaker Road. Although there was not enough food to feed everyone for very long, the rescuer's wife managed to make one meal for everybody, Mr. Keith said.

Mrs. Fic said there was no food, no heat and no blankets in the farmhouse where she and Mr. Wilson stayed for five hours.

"What gets to you is the feeling of powerlessness in the face of a disaster like that—and also the feeling of dying," Mr. Wilson said.

Luckily, a snowplow had almost cleared Mr. Wilson's car when the two found their way back to it. Because the damage was to the rear of the car, Mr. Wilson managed to start it and they slowly headed into Fonthill.

"It was a very scary drive but we had to do something because he wouldn't keep us," Mrs. Fic said.

By about 10.15 p.m. Mrs. Fic and Mr. Wilson had found their way to Fonthill and were able to stay with "some very good friends of Mr. Wilson's," Mrs. Fic said.

Mr. Keith stayed in a home across the street from the people who had rescued him until Jan. 30, when he was picked up by snowmobile and taken to St. Catharines by a waiting four-wheel drive vehicle.

He said all the school children had been taken out on snowmobiles by afternoon on Jan. 29. Before that, some parents had come to pick up their children and brought food for the others.

"What impressed me was the way people were willing to do things for each other," Mr. Keith said. "The community certainly responded. It was fantastic."

*At Seaway Mall*

# *Food, drink, and free show*

By RIC DOLPHIN

WELLAND, Ont., Jan. 29—Help, I'm stranded in the Seaway Mall! But don't worry about it, things aren't all that bad. In fact, things are pretty good.

I've only been here since yesterday noon and the folks here are being hospitable.

I was dropped off by a friend yesterday. All I wanted was to go to the bank and then take the bus home. Ha! some hope.

"Welland Transit wishes to announce that the bus service has been discontinued until visibility is better." — Great!

Then came the announcement: the stores in the mall would be closing at 2 p.m. The announcement came at about 1.

Slowly, brave people with cars ventured into the tundra-like wasteland and tried to make it home. Many returned, ruddy-faced, shivering and swearing, to stand inside, gazing outside aimlessly.

The lights of the stores started to blink off and the people began to thin out. Those of us who were left, either through lack of transportation or guts, talked with each other about the pile-ups we had heard about and, of course, the weather.

By this time, the general mood of the inmates had changed from one of frustration and annoyance to cheerful resignation. This was partly becausemost people had contacted their families, determining their safety, and partly because of the liquid enlightenment that was being served in the Fontainbleau.

If you'll pardon the cliche, there was a cross-section of Welland society at the mall: young, old, businessmen, housewives, managers and floor-sweepers. And they all got along well, these different people in the same predicament.

It soon became apparent that we would be there for the night.

Constable Frank Stanley, Niagara Regional Police, recommended that people stay where they were at least until noon the next day.

A hero who deserves mention is John Vanidour, the projectionist for the Seaway Cinemas. He walked from Niagara and Main Streets, a wind-biting distance of more than a mile, to provide us with entertainment. A choice of two movies was offered free: it certainly passed the time.

Spirits were somewhat lower on the morning after. Aching backs and hangovers had quenched most of the festive spirit. But the storm seemed less ferocious and, after breakfast, people began to disperse. It had been a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence (we think!).

When at last I got out of the mall, transported by an obliging gent with a four-wheel drive truck, I said good-bye to a lot more people than I usually do when I leave it. It's enough to restore one's faith in humanity.

# Let me out, I want sun

By COLLEEN PEGG

Visions of palm trees, sandy beaches, convertibles and sunshine danced through my head as I looked out at the blizzard.

All I could think of during the storm was how great it would be to be in Jamaica, Bahamas, Barbados or Hawaii. Somehow just thinking of these places I kept warm.

The radiators froze and we walked around with blankets on us. It was warmer outside than it was in the apartment.

**OUT OF ORDER**

All luxury items that sustain life were frozen or out of order. The telephone was dead, cable television was out, and there was no hot water.

Everybody in the apartment started thinking of food because this was the greatest problem. The only food was two peices of bread, relish, ketchup and popcorn. Between four girls, this amount did not go far.

We heard on the radio that water was becoming short so we started rationing food and water.

Earlier Saturday we thought we would starve until a friend on a snowmobile saved us with a box of food.

**CLIMBING WALLS**

By Saturday night all four of us were climbing the walls. We were bored. Why were we not stranded at Blue Mountain or Kissing Bridge—someplace where we could enjoy the snow?

On Sunday, everything started to get back to normal. The telephone, television and the radiators were working again.

One of the worse storms in history had finally ended on Monday. If we ever have another one I'm moving down south.

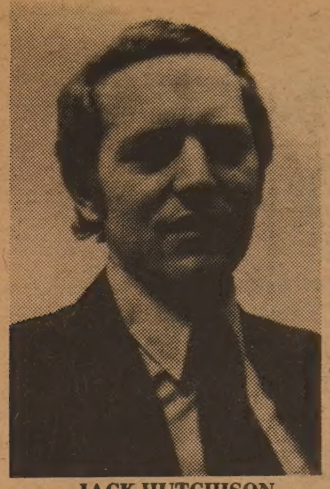
# SAC helps stranded

While most students slept, Adam Macsai, Student Administrative Council (SAC) president, and Guido Rapone, SAC executive vice-president, were wide awake helping organize food distribution and student evacuation.

"I was up 52 hours straight with no sleep," Adam said. He said he was busy from midnight Saturday until five a.m. Sunday shipping people out and less than an hour later was at the cafeteria helping organize breakfast.

"Our main concerns were food, lodging, comfort and entertainment," Adam said. There was enough food to feed everyone, he said, but it had to be organized so it wouldn't run out in a couple of days. Outside sources contributed food but the trucks couldn't get any closer than Woodlawn Road. Adam and Guido helped arrange the shipment of this food across campus, Adam said. He agreed that much of the food contributed had not been used when everyone left the college Sunday morning.

Both Adam and Guido stayed in the cafeteria during meal hours to make sure the food was distributed in an orderly fashion.



# *Jack H., what would we do without him?*

JACK HUTCHISON

By LYNNE VAN TILBORG

Jack Hutchison probably could have made it back home to St. Catharines in his Niagara Frontier Caterer's van on the Friday afternoon of the snow storm. But he didn't try.

When someone suggested he try to leave, Jack said he would stay as long as he could be of use to the students. As a result Jack's sunny disposition and ready change were found at the college until early Sunday morning.

He was "one of the saviours of the college," Barbara Blue, journalism instructor, said, "He joked, smiled, played cars and generally kept spirits up."

Jack and Ed Kerrigan, another Niagara Frontiers employee, went from building to building throughout the weekend filling vending machines with a rapidly depleting supply of snack foods and making change. In addition, they helped in the cafeteria.

Mr.Kerrigan looks after the vending machines at Atlas Steel. He found he was unable to go any farther out of Welland and stayed at the college to help.

Though it felt to Jack as if he changed $400 in one hour, the total at the end of the weekend was $1,000 between Friday afternoon and Sunday morning—through change being recycled again and again.

Jack said students and staff were "just great—everybody pitched in."

As the weekend dragged on, he felt he had to limit everyone to $1 change at a time. "No one gave me a hassle, everybody understood," he said.

He also lent money to those without cash. By Feb. 2, most of the money had been returned to him.

During the first hour when people realized they were stranded, everybody wanted change, Jack said. "I felt constantly surrounded." The feeling persisted all weekend. To such an extent, he was heard to comment, that even in a certain cubicle, a hand would come underneath the partition to the accompaniment of a familiar chant, "Got any change, Jack?"

A journalism student said she saw someone stop Jack for change about 4 a.m. one morning.

When he finally left Sunday morning, his petty cash consisted of small bills and one roll of dimes. His van was then empty of doughnuts, candy and cigarettes.

The vending machines containing sandwiches and fruit were the first to be emptied during the weekend, he said. After that students and staff ate doughnuts, chocolate bars and potato chips. People were constantly munching.

Poker was probably another reason why everyone wanted change, Jack said. The winners were probably better customers at the vending machines, for that matter.

There were still coffee and cigarettes in the machines by Sunday morning though not everyone got his favorite brand.

Jack, with Adam Macsai and Guido Rapone of the Student Administrative Council (SAC) executive, carried pizza from the cafeteria to the Simcoe building on Friday night so that students would not have to face the blizzard raging outside.

He spent some time in the cafeteria Saturday night cooking fish, and urged others to try "the best fish you ever ate."

Jack finally got home to his family in St.Catharines at 10 a.m. Sunday morning. His wife, Ann, and five-year-old son, scott, had not seen him since he left for the college early Friday morning. He did contact them by telephone twice during the weekend.

When not handling change, refilling machines, helping in the cafeteria or getting a bit of sleep—bedtime for Jack was 3:30 a.m. Saturday and 4 a.m. Sunday—Jack played poker in the Mackenzie building.

Alan Leith, radio and television instructor, is one of the people who manned the mike for Niaga ra's ham radio station relaying messages during the late Janu ary storm.

# Hams hard at work relaying messages

While Niagara's residents were freezing, Alaskans were comfy in 10 degree Celsius weather, Australians were cooking in about 43 degree Celsius temperatures and a South African made Alan Leith feel miserable by telling him he was about to go swimming in the back yard.

Members of the Ham Radio Club and Alan Leith, radio and television instructor, spent many hours on the college's ham radio relaying messages for both students and the college during the storm which struck the peninsula in late January.

"During the height of the storm on Saturday, during a lull in the message handling to the local area, I was in contact with a ham in South Africa where it was 9 o'clock in the evening," Mr. Leith said. "He told me it was 23 degrees Celsius and he was going for a dip in his pool before going to bed that night."

He said the college ham radio operated from noon Friday until 6 a.m. Sunday. During that time, between 50 and 60 messages were passed on from students to ham radio operators in the region.

"We also handled official messages from Mr. Manera to the local radio stations, CJRN, CKTB, CHSC, and CHOW," he said. "These messages were passed to hams who in turn relayed them to the stations because it was impossible to getg a telephone line from the college."

## Niagara English instructor

# Test of endurance for radio announcer

By CHRIS PAXTON

Brian Green doesn't want to go through that again.

Mr. Green, an English instructor at the college and a part-time radio broadcaster at station CHOW, Welland, stayed at the station for 40 hours broadcasting emergency information during the late January storm.

The station suspended its regular programming Friday. Six people worked in pairs, Mr. Green said. Two were on the air while another two answered telephones and the other two slept. "I don't think I got more than eight hours sleep out of 40," Mr. Green said.

AMAZING STORIES

There were many amazing stories coming in over the phones, he said. A woman phoned from Vineland trying to reach her husband. She was all alone and going into labor, her husband had gone to St. Catharines by snowmobile. She delivered her baby herself. Mr. Green said snowmobile's were able to reach her later and took her to hospital.

BRIAN GREEN

A Lowbanks man called about 1 a.m. Monday, and described the conditions in the lakeside community, Mr. Green said.

The man said drifts were high enough to reach second-story windows and picture windows were being blown in by high winds. The man nailed his door shut because of the high winds.

Sunday, a CB radio base was set up at the station to dispatch snowmobiles and deliver messages to areas where telephones were out.

MAJOR ROLES

Snowmobiles played a major role in rescue operations, Mr. Green said. One snowmobiler used eight tanks of gas, nonstop rescuing stranded people. Mr. Green said he was one of many who worked unceasingly.

There were some people who took advantage of the storm overcharging for towing, making prank phonecalls to the radio station and having snowmobiles go to non-existent emergencies. "That would be about two in 100," Mr. Green said.

"I was impressed with the way everybody came together and responded with concern. People who had as much as a warm garage would offer it as shelter."

# *Giancarlo basks in sun as peninsula buried*

"The weather on Friday was just beautiful," I.J. Giancarlo, dean of applied arts said.

He was speaking of the weekend of Jan. 28 to 30.

Those who spent the weekend at the college might not agree, but Mr. Giancarlo was basking in the 24 degree Celsius temperature of Orlando, Fla., on a one-week vacation.

"I was completely oblivious to what was going on here," he said.

Mr. Giancarlo described the weather in Florida as excellent all week.

Despite news reports of severe crop damage due to cold weather, Mr. Giancarlo said he saw very little.

Near Tampa there was a grove of oranges, which apparently had been frozen and were not going to be picked, he said. "They were the most delicious oranges I have ever tasted."

He said some of the more tropical vegetation was definitely damaged, but other than that, damage was not very visible.

Daytime temperatures never went below 17 degrees Celsuis and on only one night did it go below 7 degrees Celcius.

Mr. Giancarlo arrived at Toronto on Saturday night, but did not make it back to Welland until Sunday morning because of road conditions.

# First aid stations kept busy

By GUDRUN SCHATZLER

Frostbite, a broken collarbone and arranging for special medication to be brought to the college kept the first aid department busy when students were trapped at the college during the late January snowstorm.

"We were lucky with injuries," Eleanor Snider, health records instructor who teaches first aid, said. "There wasn't anything too serious."

Several students and faculty with serious conditions requiring medication, such as diabetes and epilepsy, were stranded at the college.

"We realized Mrs. Kerr (Marian Kerr, the college nurse) wasn't here so we got blankets together and called for prescriptions," Mrs. Snider said.

Shoppers Drug Mart provided the medicine and snowmobilers brought it to the college.

Most of the frostbite cases occurred when students tried to dig out their cars on Saturday morning and didn't realize how cold it was, Mrs. Snider said. There were no serious cases.

The drug store was helpful in providing the necessary medicine and other essentials such as aspirin and Neo Citran.

"Nobody gave us a hassle and students didn't expect more than they got," Mrs. Snider said.

Several students had carbon monoxided poisoning. They sat in their cars with the engines running.

"We have respirators here at the college," Mrs. Snider said. "We treated them here."

Most of the complaints were of headaches, upset stomachs and colds.

"When it was found out that I had Neo Citran up here (in room 302), word spread like wildfire."

Several people needed wetting solution for contact lenses. There was some available, but Mrs. Snider said it would be a good idea for people wearing contact lenses to carry their cases with wetting solution with them.

Her mother came to pick her up from the day-care centre, and they both got stranded. (Photo by Middlemiss)

# 12 children trapped, no problems though

By LIZ MATTHIAS

Five-year-old Jamie looked out of the nursery school window while the storm raged outside.

"I know my mummy would come to get me, but she can't get through the snow," he said to Mrs. Shirley Hudson, supervisor of the Early ChildhoodEducation Centre.

Jamie was one of 12 children between 13 months and five years stranded at Niagara College during the worst storm to hit this area since the December blizzard of 1944.

Mrs. Margaret Hamilton, early childhood education co-ordinator, said the children were "perfect angels." No one cried or put up a fuss during their two-day confinement.

"The children spend most of their waking hours with us anyway, so being here a couple of extra days was not upsetting to them," Mrs. Hamilton said.

The children did not diverge from the regular activities of a normal school day. They sang songs, painted, watched TV, had their naps and ate well balanced meals from the nursery school kitchen.

Three staff members, Linda Kraliz, Eleanor Dolan, Sharon Seniuk, and Allison Soave, a faculty member, helped diligently to feed, bathe and care for the children. Mrs. Hamilton sent them home when the work of Friday evening was ended, but they returned the next morning in spite of the weather.

All children and staff were evacuated from the centre by 11 p.m. Saturday night. Some were picked up by parents, others went out by a convoy of four-wheel drive vehicles.

Mrs. Hamilton said she would not have been able to manage the long, sleepless hours and the extra work without the help of her staff and the concern of the faculty who checked on them throughout the night.

Larry Taylor, radio-television program co-ordinator, braved the storm to bring food and hot chocolate to the staff and children.

## *Pinballers crowd machines*

If it seemed to you that the pinball machines in the cafeteria were making a killing during the snowstorm, the owners of the machines would be of a different opinion.

"What we made on Saturday and Sunday we lost on Monday and Tuesday," Jack Hutchison of Niagara Frontier Caterers said. "There's no way of telling how much we made, but it wouldn't be a lot."

Jack said that some of the regular players had worked out a system where the ball would get stuck on a clicker, and some of them had up to 13 free games in this fashion.

"The same guys were there at the machines at 3 a.m. Saturday that are probably there now," Jack said. "I don't even think those guys even knew there was a snowstorm going on outside."

## *Operator's switchboard jammed up*

With 700 people phoning their parents and families to say they were staying at Niagara College for the night, Helen Wallace, Niagara College switchboard operator, had more than enough to keep her and the switchboard busy.

"It was just unbelievable," Mrs. Wallace said, as she waved 30 pages of quickly jotted down messages and announcements.

All outside lines were closed and one line was kept clear for emergencies.

That didn't stop calls from coming in from worried parents, Mrs. Wallace said. She thanked Gloria Ursacki and Dawne Eros, relief operators from the personnel office for their help.

Mrs. Wallace stayed over Friday night and the two operators stayed Saturday night as well.

Gloria and Dawne carried the brunt of the calls, she said. The two operators, Gloria from Port Colborne and Dawne from Dain City, helped Mrs. Wallace keep the lines open until 10:15 p.m. Friday.

"Loking back you laugh at it," Mrs. Wallace said. She thanked students who brought supper over for the three tired operators. They were "really fantastic."

## *My, how rumors flew and grim stories grew*

By DENNY BUNYAN

As I sat in the first floor lounge of the Simcoe building, I was made painfully aware of the havoc wreaked by the snow storm.

Surrounded by fellow students, I asked exactly what the situation was and trembled as people began to tell me the "real" story.

It was desperate: *two thousand people stranded* at the college, most of them on the verge of starvation. *Thirty-two dead* in the parking lot, the unfortunate victims of carbon monoxide poisoning.

I hear we have to go and drag the dead bodies out of the cars," one girl was heard to wail.

An English instructor reported hearing cars "snapping like matchsticks."

"Don't go out; you'll never get back," he informed his captive audience. "It's suicide out there."

To hear it told, one had to step over corpses to reach the cafeteria where meagre rations were being sold at exorbitant prices.

Weather reports were being issued left and right. One student was positive the storm would last *at least a week.*

Another consoled his peers by telling them the storm would definitely end *in an hour or so.*

Nobody knew if there had been any injuries in the *27-car pile-up* at the entrance to the college. It was almost a certainty that the whole mess was caused by a McDonald's truck in the process of delivering *30,000 hamburgers.* Or was it *40,000?*

Yet, even in the face of these deplorable conditions, student morale was kept high with the promise of a pub night on Saturday. As it turned out, that was only a rumor.

In actuality, things were too rough to be described by written words. One had to see it to believe it, and even then it was a little hard to separate fact from fiction.

## *Falls nurses socked in, too*

It was work as usual for 28 Niagara College student nurses and instructor socked in by the storm 10 days ago. Students stuck at three hospitals stayed on to help out.

A house mother, the janitor, eight students and three instructors were stranded at Niagara Falls Centre of Nursing. They helped out at Greater Niagara General Hospital, Niagara Falls.

Two volunteer dishwashers, Ed Kamphuis and John Clark, take time off to clown for the camera. (Photo by Middlemiss)

# To feed 700 students task of cafeteria crew

By SYLVIA BAAGO

Feeding the hungry multitudes stranded at Niagara College during the Jan. 28 snowstorm was a formidable task, but one the cafeteria personnel, aided by various staff members and students, proved capable of handling.

The cafeteria, geared to serve 125 hot meals daily, was swamped by the need to feed more than 700 stranded people. The cafeteria staff worked practically non-stop during the storm to fill the tall order of stopping all those hunger pains, and the college provided the meals free.

Linda Bomers, cashier, handled the emergency in the absence of her father, Fred Bomers, cafeteria manager, who had gone to Toronto on Friday, the day the blizzard started.

Linda was assisted by the regular staff, consisting of the chef, John Hubeny, 61, the second cook, Betsy Timmers, and the counter girls, Marg Turnstall and Iris Duckett, as well as various volunteers. The staff slept where and when they could during the crisis. At one point on Saturday, the chef fell asleep in a chair, exhausted.

Mrs. Turnstall and Mrs. Duckett, whose regular shift is from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., said, "As long as we knew our families were fine, we didn't mind staying."

The staff worked all Friday afternoon preparing supper and were up by 6:30 a.m. Saturday to get breakfast. At this point, it was realized food would have to be rationed since the storm showed no signs of abating and it appeared doubtful that trucks would be able to deliver supplies.

A dishwashing brigade, manned by students and college staff, was a regular assembly line of efficiency during mealtimes. Manning the dishwasher were John Clark, technology instructor, his wife, Bea, secretary, extension division; Carolyn Jones, of accelerated general business; Ed Kamphuis, electronics technology and chairman of the IEEE Club; Bob McKean, electronic technology and vice-chairman of the IEEE club; George Cvirik, member of the IEEE, and Joe Mrozek, part-time worker in community education.

All members of the dishwashing brigade, replendent in their pinafores, agreed they were pitching in to help because they were bored, somebody had to do it, and they might as well earn their keep.

Joe Mrozek said proudly, "Three shifts and we haven't broken a dish yet."

Ed Kamphuis showed courage and determination beyond the call of duty with his remark, "I'll go down with the ship."

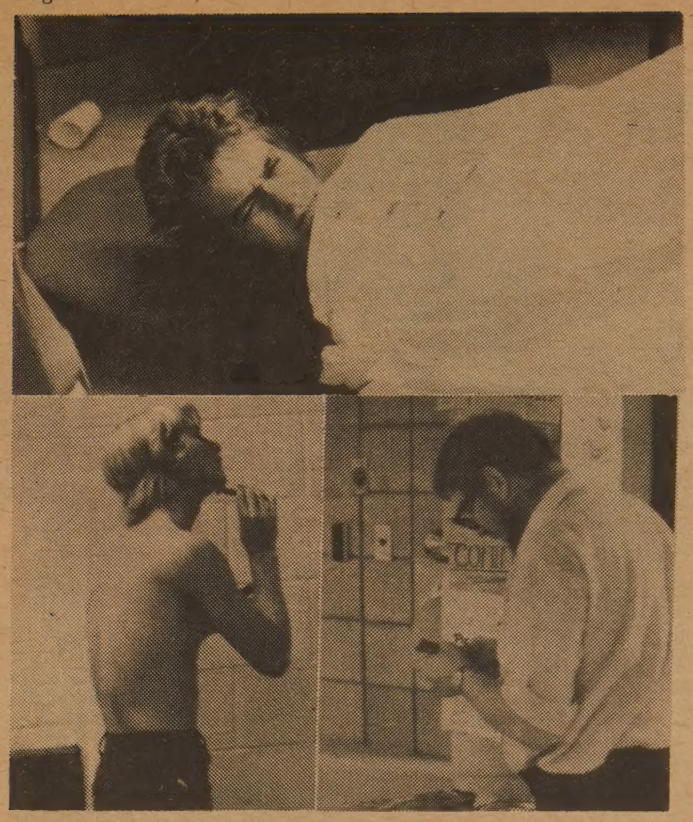
The chef prepared two huge pots of soup for Saturday's lunch and this, along with a sandwich, had to be rationed to the hungry people who started to line up for lunch an hour before the 1 p.m. serving time. The line-up snaked serpentine fashion three and four deep through the cafeteria.

A sigh of relief swept through the cafeteria staff in the afternoon when Mr. Bomers managed to reach the school with a load of frozen fish, even though the storm had not abated. Saturday night, due largely to his efforts, everyone enjoyed a hearty meal of fish and chips.

Larry Taylor, co-ordinator of radio and television, summed it all up when he said, "Co-operation between everybody has been fantastic."

The cheerfulness and willingness of the cafeteria staff and all the volunteers more than made up for the few grumblers and dissenters who weren't satisfied and, like Oliver Twist, wanted "more."

The crisis is over, and things are returning to normal, but the aftermath of the storm will be warm memories of people helping people, co-operation and just plain caring.



## Candid shots

# Snowmobile saved stranded student

**It is doubtful whether Niagara College can ever adequately thank the snowmobilers and volunteer truckers who came to our rescue during the late January storm. This is the story of just one of these.**

**By MARNIE CLEMENT**

Less than one mile from home, and not looking forward to spending another night sleeping on the darkroom floor, I was determined to reach my apartment that Saturday night during the snow storm.

Walking home would have been impossible, with the high winds, huge snow drifts, and sub-zero temperatures. Most cars were buried under six feet of drifting snow, and even if we had managed to dig one out, abandoned cars blocked all exits from the college.

Snowmobiles were our only hope. With two other girls, I headed up to Hennepin Hall in hopes of getting a ride from one of the many snowmobilers who had been bringing food into the college all afternoon.

After two hours of waiting, as most of the snowmobilers had gone home for dinner, we gave up all hopes of reaching home that night.

We headed to the cafeteria for dinner.

Half-way between the two buildings, we spotted a light coming towards us. Yes, our prayers had been answered! A snowmobile approached!

One of the girls waved to the driver and he stopped. He told us his name was Randy and he was a Niagara College student, too. Each of us told him where we were going and he agreed to drive us home.

I lived the closest to the school, so I was the first to go.

With only jeans, and a wrap-around coat on, Iwasn't prepared to face the cold. I gratefully accepted a face mask the man handed me.

I climbed aboard, and held on tight.

We made it out to the entrance of the college, only to find a huge drift (possibly a snow-covered car) blocking the entrance.

We turned around to try a different exit.

This time we were luckier, and made it out on to Woodlawn road. A single lane was plowed down the left-hand side of the road. Cars were scattered, deserted by their drivers.

We hadn't driven 500 feet, and already I was freezing.

"Anytime you get cold, just tell me, and we'll stop for a minute," the driver yelled over his shoulder.

But I was bound and determined to reach home as soon as possible, and told him I was fine.

Niagara Street was in better shape than Woodlawn, and there was even the occasional car driving along. There were more snowmobiles on the roads than cars.

By this time, my exposed knees were numb. Jeans were no protection from the cold. I used one hand at a time to cover my knees, and the other to hold on.

We finally reached Main Steet, and tuned left to cross the bridge.

By the time we reached my apartment, I was lacking any type of feeling in most parts of my body. I attempted to remove the face mask, only to discover it had frozen, I couldn't get it off my head.

After a lot of prying and pulling, I managed to scrape the thing off my head, though it felt as if most of my face went with it.

I managed to climb the stairs to my apartment, find my keys somewhere in the depths of my purse, and staggered inside.

Actually, I wasn't much better off than I had been at the college. I had gone through all that so I wouldn't have to spend another night sitting at the college, just so I could spend Saturday night sitting at home.

# Morale excellent at college

Morale remained high among the 600 students and staff stranded at Niagara College during the snow storm last week, Arnot P. McIntee, dean of the school of business, said.

Mr. McIntee was trapped at the college, unable to return to his home in St. Catharines until Sunday morning.

"Morale was excellent," he said. "Even on Saturday night, when everyone was extremely tired, and wanted to go home."

Mr. McIntee commended the kitchen staff for its outstanding job in feeding the stranded students.

"Both students and staff helped out in the kitchen," he said. "They did a great job."

Students were fed fish and chips, cole slaw, bread, and fruit cocktail Saturday night, and scrambled eggs, ham, toast and coffee Sunday morning, he said.

"All the food that was donated was very much appreciated," Mr. McIntee said.

The gymnasium was opened on Saturday so students could play basketball and volleyball, and the resource centre was opened for students who wanted to read or do research, Mr. McIntee said.

"TV's were set up in the Hamilton room, and many classrooms," he said. "The students were very well-behaved. There was no damage that I know of."

## *Storm hits board, too*

Sudden high winds and blowing snow were responsible for the cancellation of the board of governors meeting Jan. 27 and the rescheduled buffet supper meeting of the board Feb. 3.

The evening business meeting was to be held Feb. 3 as scheduled, however.

The Jan. 27 meeting was cancelled when the winds that preceded the blizzard Jan. 28 made it impossible for board members to attend.

# Oblivious to storm seeks refuge in bar

**By DON LOUCKS**

While a paralysing snow storm hung over the region Jan. 28, I lay in bed unknowing and, I I must confess, quite uncaring.

This would normally be frowned upon, but in this case, my irresponsibility and acute laziness struck a chord of good fortune.

Thoses ambitious students who made the trek to Niagara were to spend most of the weekend in the confines of the college, while I would remain safe and reasonably snug in my apartment on Main Street E., and for the most part, unaffected by the storm.

I was oblivious of the severity of the storm, looking passively out my window onto Main Street, thinking that it might possibly be very cold out there.

I first came to realized the seriousness of the situation when a friend came by my apartment, wheezing and gasping from the cold and screaming something about liquor stores and neighborhood bars being closed.

The fact that the poor fellow was severely winded and almost frostbitten did less to alert me to the storm's severity than those frightening words.

With this rude awakening, we set out into the storm with hopes of finding a bar that would be an exception to the ridiculous practice of closing the doors on "needy" people during this emergency situation.

We had ventured only two blocks before coming to a bar considerate enough to remain open.

This had to be the St. Bernard of all taverns, we thought.

Since the banks were closed, my spending money consisted of a sack full of nickels and dimes that had accumulated over the months. This was not enough to afford me the luxury of winter-defeating Scotch, but the heap of coins stretched far enough to keep me in comfort with lager and cigarettes.

It wasn't until later on that night, while sitting with pleasure in the bar, that I heard of the situation at Niagara. When I look back on the weekend, I realize how fortunate it was that I chose not to attend classes on Friday.

But from what was being said, the stranded students and faculty were better off than those of us "confined" to the bar.

Rumor had it that about 200 cases of Pub Nite beer were being offered to them at no cost, and that the cafeteria was in a state of hysteria—not with worry, but with laughter and merry-making.

Being gullible and always on the lookout for a party situation, about six of us herded together and set off for the college to join in on the "fun."

If the car's ignition had not been frozen solid, we would have made it to that haven of ecstasy. On hearing later of what actually did go on at the college, I was pleased that the ignition refused to thaw.

Not all of this storm did I endure in the comfort of the bar. This accounts for the long life of those nickels and dimes.

Owing to the sheltered locale of my apartment, I was tnot exposed very much to the storm that created chaos for the majority of people in this region.

I was never in real danger of running out of food, though I did ration myself strictly for three or four days. There was little heat in my apartment, but I had plenty of warm clothing to don. All things considered, I was comfortable and an outsider to the winter havoc.

I went for a stroll down Main Street a few days after the blizzard first hit the region, wearing a light jacket, fully open at the front.

The air was still and the sun was bright and warm. The street was busy with traffic and sidewalks carried the weight of Welland's shoppers.

Storm? What storm?

# Snowmobilers heroes of the day

**By KAREN MONCK**

About 1,000 people in Welland and outlying areas owe their warmth and security—and possibly many their survival—to the volunteer actions of snowmobilers during the snowstorm that blew up Jan. 28 across the peninsula.

Although the storm crippled most traffic, all 90 members of the Welland Snowmobile Club and about 100 non-members from the area took to their Arctic Cats and Ski-Doos to take food and medicine to people stranded in safe places and rescue people stuck in unsafe places.

Reg Bernier, president of the Welland Snowmobile Club, said the volunteer rescue force offered help so quickly that police were getting aid before they could ask for it.

Rescuers were sent to Port Colborne, Dain City and Wainfleet as well as within Welland.

Snowmobile operations were co-ordinated out of Central Fire Hall, Niagara Regional Police offices and Ontario Provincial Police offices in Welland.

"I pretty well lived at the police station for five days," Mr. Bernier said.

Most of the rescue procedure consisted of taking food and medicine to people stranded in homes or schools, but rescues were made for people stranded in cars or stuck in homes without heat, electricity or water, Mr. Bernier said.

High winds and biting cold proved to be hazardous even for vehicles designed for the snow. Mr. Bernier's snowmobile broke down Friday about 2:30 p.m. on Highway 140 when its belts and plugs burned out. Because he was with a group of snowmobilers, Mr. Bernier got a ride back into Welland. He said several snowmobiles had to be abandoned during the storm because of machine failures.

Loss of his vehicle did not stop him from continuing to help in the rescue. Mr. Bernier returned with his four-wheel drive vehicle to help in the rescue operations.

Snowmobiles and four-wheel drive vehicles teamed up to rescue people stranded in remote places. From one house, 24 people were transported by snowmobile to four-wheel drive vehicles waiting as close to the house as they could get, Mr. Bernier said.

In Wainfleet a doctor had to be taken to a woman's home by snowmobile to perform a Caesarian operation. After the army was called in, Mr. Bernier took an 80-year-old woman to hospital while three soldiers were riding with him.

A Dain city public school harboring about 170 students, was completely evacuated by snowmobiles and four-wheel drive vehicles. Mr. Bernier took three loads of children from the school before the rescue was completed.

Snowmobilers volunteered to help at the onset of the storm and went until all rescues were completed, breaking only for gulps of coffee or a little sleep. On Wednesday, one rescuer telephoned Mr. Bernier to find out if there was anything more he could do to help before he hung up his skidoo suit—after five full days of rescues.